

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Office of the State Fire Marshal *State Fire Marshal Mary Corso*

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State Fire Marshal Ensures Fire Safe Facilities

Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced today that the number of fire and life safety code violations found in state-licensed facilities is steadily decreasing. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is working closely with facility administrators to reduce the “out of compliance” timeframe to 90 days.

The OSFM is responsible for inspecting facilities that house more than 75,000 of our state’s most vulnerable population, which include young children, the elderly, and those with physical or mental disabilities. In November 2001, an analysis of the inspection program identified that some facilities were slow to correct code violations. At that time, a benchmark of 180 days was established to eliminate all code violations found upon initial inspection. A significant reduction in the number of **out of compliance** facilities was achieved due to the concerted effort by facility administrators and OSFM staff. In July 2002, the benchmark was lowered to 120 days; again, the number continues to drop.

Now a new goal has been established to bring all facilities into code compliance within 90 days. The numbers are steadily decreasing as depicted in the chart below.

TYPE OF FACILITY	NUMBER OF FACILITIES	ESTIMATED NUMBER OCCUPANTS	Number of Facilities Exceeding Established Compliance Timeframes		
			180 Day Benchmark Nov 2001	120 Day Benchmark July 2002	90 Day Benchmark August 2003
Nursing Homes	296	25,900	10	6	0
Boarding Homes	608	32,700	33	25	4
Group Homes	122	500	0	0	2
Child Care Centers	375	16,000	5	1	0
Total	1,401	75,100	48	32	6

State Fire Marshal Mary Corso states, “The elimination of fire and life safety violations in state-licensed facilities will continue to be priority. We strive to mitigate fire risk in an effort to protect the vulnerable.”

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects,

licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on "State Fire Marshal."

For more information, contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

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